Spring/Summer 2023

www.mayenne53.com

Mayenne 53

A magazine for English speakers in the Mayenne

NEWS · EVENTS · LEISURE · PROPERTY · TRAVEL · FOOD · BUSINESS

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN LAVAL

18 million euros is being spent on the Place du 11 Novembre in the centre of Laval, with the transformation expected to be completed in 2025.

The centrepiece of the redevelopment will be a 6.5million euro food hall with more than a dozen traders. This gourmet hall will be open 7 days a week and will provide a restaurant bar and tea room. A panoramic terrace will offer a wide view of the Mayenne river and an adjoining covered awning will make it possible to hold cultural and commercial events all through the year.

There will also be a large water feature and children's playground. 50% of the money will come from the Town Hall's budget and the rest from government grants. Work has already started and diversions are in place.

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The Olympic Flame will travel through the Mayenne in 2024

As part of the preparations for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, the Mayenne department will be welcoming the Olympic torch at various points throughout the department. The route has not yet been revealed but on Wednesday 29th May (2 months before the games start), the flame will pass through well-known locations in the department, ending at the Espace Mayenne in Laval.

The Olympic flame will arrive in France in the port of Marseille on the Belem, the second largest sailing ship in France. It will end its journey on July 14 in Paris. The Mayenne department has paid €180,000 to have the flame pass through the department.

Aléop Région Pays de la Loire

A new "Transport on Demand" service has been launched throughout the department.

Simply phone: 09 69 39 14 14 and request transport from A-to-B from virtually any village in the department. From 2€ you can travel across your sector (and further) at a time that suits you (subject to availability). And don't worry about speaking French, once you get through to an advisor you can ask for someone who speaks English! ..... continued on page 2 .....

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

LUMON

Lumon are the international property currency experts and have helped thousands of customers buy and sell property overseas for more than 20 years.

Contact Karolyn Chauvigné to find out more:
karolyn.chauvigne@lumonpay.com | +33 (0) 256 879937

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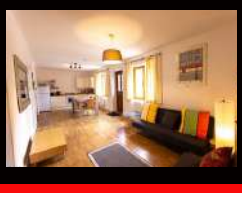

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Mayenne53 Magazine is published by Mayenne53.com
Siret: 52098043400036

ISSN en cours

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pub@mayenne53.com

Transport on Demand

.....Continued from page 1 You just need to get past the first two automated options: Press #1 for Transport on demand; then #1 again for transport in the Mayenne. If you want to try speaking French, be prepared to give the following info:

Nom de Famille/Surname, Prénom/First name, Email address, Phone number, Address, and Birth date. It really is easy and convenient, not to mention cheap!

For more information visit: www.aleop.paysdelaloire.fr/transport-la-demande-2 or request an e-brochure in English by emailing contact@mayenne53.com

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Boost your online presence with our social media and website consultancy service!

We can help with social media management, website design, content creation, analytics tracking, and logo design services.

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contact@mayenne53.com

Mayenne: The hidden gem of NW France

Long overlooked by British holiday makers, this green and pleasant land has finally been put on the map thanks to celebrity residents like Dick Strawbridge and Dave Myers!

Just an hour's drive from St Malo, the department of Mayenne in the Pays de la Loire has recently found fame through the TV show "Escape to the Chateau" with Dick and Angel Strawbridge. The small village of Martigné-sur-Mayenne, 17 kms North-East of Laval has become a popular stop off for fans of the show. And Fougerolles du Plessis in the North-West of the department has featured on the Hairy Biker's programme, as the backdrop to an episode based at Dave Myers' house there.

Editor: Hayley GILKS

With prices in Martigné averaging 1637€/m² and in Fougerolles just 871€/m² its not hard to see why people are so interested in this hidden gem! Despite post Brexit restrictions, we are still seeing lots of British people buying homes here. Why not have a look at our property pages (8 & 9) and find the local estate agents with the best deals?!

Over 80% of the Mayenne is agricultural land so it's no surprise that Mayenne is in the bottom 25 least populated departments of France. If you are looking for peace and tranquility, then you've come to the right place. Cycling (France's national sport) is well accommodated here, there's over 128 km of old railway lines and 85 km of towpaths to explore. Not to mention the forests and woodlands.

The Mayenne river runs through the centre of the department for over 300kms, and with many more rivers and lakes throughout the region there's no shortage of watersports facilities.. Check out our leisure guide on page 12 for more information on fishing, boat-hire, etc.

If all that nature is too much for you, head in to Laval town for a busier vibe.... Restaurants, bars, a cinema, museums, live music and much more awaits you. The administrative capital of the department, Laval boasts a population of over 50,000 with several commercial centres and a brand new concert venue: L'Espace de la Mayenne. You can even take the train to Paris for the day, it's just a 1hour 10 minute TGV train journey away!

Whatever your reasons for coming to Mayenne, you'll never forget your visit!

Mayenne carpenters help restore Notre Dame

A Mayenne company has won the contract (part of a multi-company tender) to help restore Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Cruard Charpente (Mayenne), Le Bras Frères (Meurthe-et-Moselle), Asselin (Deux-Sèvres) and Métiers du Bois (Calvados) have already started working together at a site in the East of France, sorting the 1,200 hundred-year-old oak supplied from, among other places, the Scierie des Géants in Craon. As well as structural work, there are also the decorations on the spire, railings and decorations to reconstruct.

The company is no stranger to restoring historical monuments, having already worked on restoration projects on the stables of Versailles, the castles of Azay-le-Rideau, Chenonceaux, Sainte Suzanne and the Château-Neuf de Laval, and even the convent of the Ursulines in Chateau-Gontier.

The family business is run by brothers Aurélien and Florian Lefèvre and has just celebrated its 30th anniversary. Work will start on site at the cathedral in March 2023.

The assembly of the 2,300 pieces of the spire on the cathedral started in the spring of 2023 with 4 to 8 Mayennais workers on site in Paris.

Places to visit in Mayenne

Whether you like culture, sports, nature, architecture, food or shopping.... There's so much to see and do in the Mayenne!

Mayenne
May'N PASS
pour découvrir la Mayenne et profiter de bons plans dans plus de 60 sites de visites et de loisirs
Mayenne
May'N PASS
WWW.MAYENNE-TOURISME.COM

With the card "May'n Pass" you can get discounts on over 30 attractions. Just call in to one of the tourist offices listed here and receive your free card. ⟶
Or register online and it will be posted to you.
www.mayenne-tourisme.com/en/the-mayn-pass-card/
(French addresses only).

May'n Pass: Discover the Mayenne

Available free of charge at the following tourist offices:

Laval Tourist Office
84 Avenue Robert Buron,
53000 Laval

Chateau-Gontier-sur-Mayenne
Tourist Office
Place André Counord,
53200 Chateau-Gontier-sur-Mayenne

Tourist Office of Sainte-Suzanne – Les Coëvrons
1 rue Jean de Bueil,
53270 Sainte-Suzanne-et-Chammes

Tourist Office of Haute-Mayenne Valley
Quay of Waiblingen
53100 Mayenne

Lassay-les-Châteaux Tourist Office
8 rue du Château,
53110 Lassay-les-Châteaux

Saint-Denis-d'Anjou Tourist Office
2 Grande Rue,
53290 Saint-Denis-d'Anjou

Mont des Avaloirs Tourist Office
26, rue Jules Doitteau
53700 Villaines-la-Juhel

Bocage Mayennais Tourist Office
Bocage Mayennais Tourism
1 grande rue
53120 Gorron

Pays de Meslay-Grez Tourist Office
1, Voie La Guiternière
53120 Meslay-du-Maine

Ambrières Tourist Information Point
9 rue de la Chaussée
53300 Ambrières-les-Vallées

Pontmain Tourist Information Point
5 rue de la grange
53220 Pontmain

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53230 Cossé-le-Vivien
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musee.tatin@lamayenne.fr

Pontmain Basilica (53220 Pontmain)

In 1871, local children saw an apparition of the virgin Mary in the night sky. Every year, thousands of pilgrims come to visit the village and a large basilica was built in honour of the vision. On a sunny day the stained glass windows are amazing to see. There are several gift shops selling souvenirs, a café, bar and a restaurant. The village is particularly busy on the anniversary of the vision (17th January) and on August 15th (Assumption of Mary). There is a thatched barn in the centre of the village where the local children were working when thew saw the vision, and you can listen to a recounting of the event (in French) here. Masses are held daily at 10am. A secluded woodland walk can be found behind the Basilica.

Refuge de l'Arche

Refuge de l'Arche is an animal sanctuary near Chateau Gontier. The sanctuary is a haven for animals in need of care, protection, and rehabilitation. It is home to a diverse range of species, including domesticated animals, farm animals, and wild animals.
The Refuge was founded in 1976 by Jean-Pierre and Monique Le Roch, who dedicated their lives to providing shelter and care for animals in need. The sanctuary started with a few domesticated animals, but it soon grew to accommodate a wider range of animals. The Le Rochs' dedication to animal welfare has made the refuge one of the largest and most respected animal sanctuaries in France.
The sanctuary's primary mission is to care for animals in need, and the centre takes in animals from all over France, including those that have been mistreated, abandoned, or injured. The sanctuary has specialized facilities for animals that require medical attention or rehabilitation before they can be released back into the wild. The centre also provides long-term care for animals that cannot be released due to their injuries or disabilities.

REFUGE DE L'ARCHE

Visitors can take guided tours of the sanctuary to learn about the animals and their stories. The centre's staff and volunteers are passionate about animal welfare, and they work tirelessly to ensure that the animals at the sanctuary are happy and healthy. Funded entirely by donations, by visiting the refuge, you are not only supporting the welfare of the animals but also contributing to the conservation of endangered species. The refuge's work has helped to raise awareness about animal welfare, and it serves as an inspiration to others who are dedicated to animal care and protection. www.refuge-arche.org 13 quater Rue Félix Marchand, 53200 Château-Gontier-sur-Mayenne

Karting Du Nord Mayenne
La Houdoulière, 53640 Montreuil-Poulay
www.kartingdunordmayenne.fr

Le Monde des Petits Loups
ZAC des Bozzé, Rue de Bruxelles,
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www.mondedespetitsloups.fr
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Ideas for your next daytrip!

Saint Suzanne

The Château of Sainte-Suzanne is a medieval castle with an 11th century keep and a 17th century dwelling. Open From September 1 to June 30 Every day: 10 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm. to 5:30 pm From July 1 to August 31 Every day: 10 am to 7 pm May, June and September Weekends and public holidays: 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 7 pm
www.chateaudesaintesuzanne.fr

MAY'N LOISIRS

Fun for all the family, near Ambrières-les-Vallées, this outdoor leisure centre is open from 7th May 2023.

Swim out to the inflatable play area, rent a kayak or pedalo, or just sit back and relax in the Mayenne sunshine whilst enjoying a drink or snack from the café.
Le Bas Loze, 53300 La Haie-Traversaine
Tel: 0243042393
contact@maynloisirs.com
www.maynloisirs.com

Zoom: Science Museum, LAVAL.

Throughout the year, the Laval Science Museum organises interactive science exhibits. This former Fine Art museum now houses scientific and technical exhibitions with a focus on experiments and interactive display.
Opening times:
Tuesday to Friday 10am-12 noon, 1.30pm - 6pm
Saturday 10am-12noon, 2pm-7.30pm
Sunday 2pm-6pm
www.zoom.laval.fr

Around 450 BC, there was an ancient Gallic village here with a temple. Then, in the 1st century, on the foundations of the ancient village, an important Roman town developed. The Romans created the city of Noviodunum (literally New Town), the chief town of the region of the Diablintes . The site is open every weekday except Wednesdays throughout the year (closed in December, reopening in the February).
Check the website for more information: www.museedejublains.fr
13 rue de la Libération, 53160 Jublains.
Téléphone 0243581320 Email: musee.jublains@lamayenne.fr

Shopping

Market Days

MONDAY
Craon 53400
Mayenne 53100
Villaines la Juhel 53700
TUESDAY
Ernée 53500
Landivy 53190
Place de la Trémoille 53000 LAVAL
Oisseau 53300
Port Brillet 53410
Saint Pierre la Cour 53410
WEDNESDAY
Changé 53810
Gorron 53120
Lassay les Châteaux 53110
Place de la Commune 53000 LAVAL
Saint Berthevin 53940
Saint Pierre des Nids 53370
Vaiges 53480
THURSDAY
Andouillé 53240
Château Gontier 53200
Evron 53600
Martigné sur Mayenne 53470
Montsûrs 53150
Saint Denis de Gastines 53500
Saint Pierre la Cour 53410
FRIDAY
Argentré 53210
Bonchamp les Laval 53960
Bourgneuf la Forêt 53410
Chailland 53420
La Chapelle-au-Riboul 53440
Fougerolles du Plessis 53190
Javron les Chapelles 53250
Place de Mettmann 53000 LAVAL
Louverné 53950
Meslay du Maine 53170
Montflours 53240
Renazé 53800
Saint Pierre la Cour 53410
SATURDAY
Ambrières les Vallées 53300
Avenue Robert Buron 53000 LAVAL
Place de la Trémoille 53000 LAVAL
Loiron Ruillé 53320
Mayenne 53100
Pré-en-Pail Saint Samson 53140

Mayenne Markets have a rich history, dating back to the Middle Ages. The department was an important crossroads for trade routes between the Loire Valley and Brittany, which led to the development of a thriving market economy.

In the 13th century, many of the towns in Mayenne were granted market charters by the local lords, giving them the right to hold markets and fairs. These markets were an essential part of the local economy, providing a place for farmers, artisans, and merchants to sell their goods. One of the most popular markets in Mayenne is the Laval market, which takes place every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday in the town of Laval. The market is held in the historic town center and features over 200 vendors selling everything from fresh produce and meats to clothing and crafts. Visitors can sample local cheeses, meats, and wines, or pick up handmade souvenirs to take home.

Today, Mayenne's street markets continue to thrive, offering visitors a chance to experience the rich history and culture of the department. Whether you're looking for fresh produce, artisanal crafts, or a taste of local cuisine, the markets of Mayenne are sure to offer something special.

Bargain hunters paradise!

Emmaus charity shops in France have become a very popular destination for bargain hunters and those looking to support a good cause.

Founded in 1949 by Father Henri Groues, the organization aims to provide shelter, food, and support to those in need.

The Emmaus charity shops in France offer a wide range of products including clothing, furniture, books, and electronics at affordable prices.

What sets them apart from traditional thrift stores is that all of the items are donated, and the proceeds from sales go directly towards funding Emmaus' programs to help those in need.

Additionally, the organization provides job opportunities for individuals facing social and economic exclusion. Centres are usually open every Wednesday and Saturday. Visit www.emmaus53.net for more info.

Emmaus Centres in Mayenne

Rue de l'Horizon, 53100 Mayenne
72 Av. de Mayenne, 53000 Laval
La Chevalerie, 53170 Villiers-Charlemagne

AVON & SCENTSY
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waxandwarmers.shop

Leisure Activities

PARC DE LOISIRS DE LA COLMONT

Escape to the beauty of Parc Colmont near Gorron, France! With 100 acres of natural paradise to explore, you'll find peace, adventure, and a chance to reconnect with nature.

Take a leisurely stroll through the park's lush woodland, meadows, and tranquil lakes, where you'll encounter a variety of flora and fauna, including deer, peacocks, and llamas. Bring a picnic and enjoy lunch in the shade of one of the park's majestic trees.

For those seeking more excitement, Parc Colmont offers a range of outdoor activities, including cycling, horse riding, fishing, and archery. Or visit the park's miniature farm, where you can see a variety of domestic animals.

Discover the park's rich cultural heritage, with a visit to its historic chapel and 18th-century manor house. Take a guided tour to learn about the park's history and the stories behind its architectural treasures.

Parc Colmont is the perfect destination for families, couples, and solo travelers. It's a place to slow down, breathe deep, and immerse yourself in the natural beauty of North-West Mayenne. Don't miss this unforgettable experience - visit Parc Colmont today!

Open April 15th - October 31st

Zip-line (Accrobranche)
from 4 years old
Prices from 10€

Paintball
for groups of 8+
from 14 years old
Prices from 17€

Laser Tag (Outdoor)
8-20 people
from 8 years old

9 Hole Golf Course
Adults 7€
Kids (8-17 years) 5€

Kayak
Adults 12€
Kids (6-17 years) 9€

Mountain Bike Hire (VTT)
1/2 Day 20€
1 Day 30€

Parc de la Colmont, Av. de la Colmont,
53120 Gorron Tel: 0243085293
http://parcloisirscolmont.wixsite.com/gorron

L'aQuaBulle

Aquabulle Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre

Rue du Commandant Cousteau,
53000 Laval
www.aquabulle.fr

Les Jardins des RENAUDIES

Les Mezerais, 53120
Colombiers-du-Plessis

Nestled in the heart of the Mayenne countryside, the beautiful gardens offer a tranquil haven for nature lovers and garden enthusiasts alike.

Stroll through the stunning floral displays, breathe in the fresh country air, and soak up the peaceful atmosphere. From the stunning rose garden to the serene water features, there is something to delight and inspire visitors of all ages.

And when you've had your fill of the gardens, why not visit the charming tea room? Indulge in a delicious selection of cakes, pastries, and sandwiches, all made with fresh, local ingredients. So whether you're looking for a relaxing day out with the family, a romantic getaway with your loved one, or simply a chance to connect with nature, Les Jardins des Renaudies is the perfect destination. **www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr**

Accommodation

For more listings of Hotels, Gites and B&B's in the Mayenne, check out our Business Directory on our website www.mayenne53.com/accommodation. You'll find full contact info for all sorts of accommodation, from tree houses to luxury hotels!

An American in Mayenne

Raised in Hollywood (USA), Robert Trickey, an interior designer & upholsterer spent years searching for his perfect French property. From his modern home in Hawaii he searched online listings and made several trips before finally finding, and falling in love with his dream house in the centre of Mayenne town in the spring of 2017. After remodelling most of the ground floor rooms and using his professional skills to refurbish the rest of the house, he's turned it into a stunning chambre d'hôtes.

For more information visit the listing on AirBnB: https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/34729158

Looking for a luxurious stay in the heart of a bustling town? Look no further than this stunning chambre d'hôtes located just 200m from the town centre. This classically furnished property is perfect for solo travellers or couples seeking a stylish base for exploring the town and the department.

From the moment you step through the door, you'll be struck by the unique features and rich history of the house. The main guestroom boasts a plush queen-size bed that guarantees a restful night's sleep. There's a private, en-suite bathroom with tub/shower, toilet and bidet. You'll also have access to the garden terrace. Wifi is available and dogs are welcome!

Located in the heart of the town, this Airbnb is within walking distance of a range of attractions, from trendy restaurants and cafes to historic landmarks and museums. Whether you're travelling for business or pleasure, this Airbnb is the perfect place to call home. So why wait? Book your stay today and start planning an unforgettable trip that you'll cherish for years to come!

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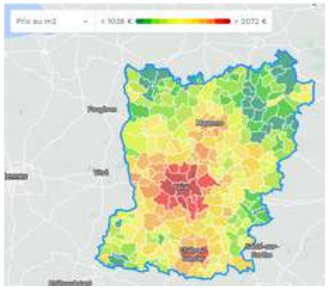
PROPERTY

Market update: Spring 2023

According to the website MeilleursAgents.com, the housing market in the Mayenne is still very active, with an average of 9% more buyers than sellers. The price per m² varies throughout the region, you can expect to pay 2411€/m² for a house in Laval compared to 1256€/m² in Ambrières-les-Vallées.



House prices have increased noticeably since the Covid Crisis, with Parisians, amongst others, looking for affordable "work from home" properties. The roll-out of Fibre-Optic Internet has also helped (Mayenne is aiming to be the first department offering Fibre to every resident). And with Laval just a 1 hour 15-minute train ride away from Paris, the Mayenne is a great choice! Post-Brexit, we are still seeing British buyers arrive in the department as well as Dutch, German, American, and Australian. 2022 was a bumper year for house sales in the Mayenne but it's looking like prices are flattening and demand is dropping off slightly so the predictions for the market in 2023 are conservative.

Evolution of real estate prices in Mayenne 2000-2023

There are still plenty of great properties for sale, from renovation projects with 10 acres to modern apartments, there's something for everyone in the Mayenne!

GORRON Immobilier

The Mayenne department has long been a popular destination for both second homeowners from the UK and those looking for a permeant move to experience a traditional French lifestyle whilst still having good links back to see family in the UK. New people to the Mayenne come here to appreciate its lush green countryside, pretty villages. And great links across to Brittany, the coast, Mont saint Michel etc.

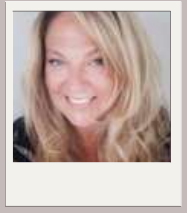
The property market in the Mayenne offers potential buyers a vast choice of options at all budgets and the north of Mayenne remains one of the more affordable areas. Over the last two years with the global changes that have taken place the department has seen a shift into a more diverse set of buyers looking to make the Mayenne their home. Including buyers from across the rest of Europe and internationally.

Here at Gorron Immobilier we have been matching clients to properties since 2004 and, we pride ourselves on our knowledge of the local property market, its people, and traditions. Helping to smoothly guide clients through their journey to becoming a property owner in the Mayenne. Currently we have a good selection of properties throughout the department to suit most budgets. www.gorronimmobilier.com
Tel: 0243084632 email: office@gorronimmobilier.com

LEGGETT INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Amanda Fellows has lived and worked in France for over 15 years now and feels very much at home in NW Mayenne with its rolling countryside and traditional villages; she has deep roots in the area and feels blessed to be able to pass on her knowledge and experience through her work with Leggetts, the French property experts with over 10,000 properties for sale for all budgets.

With the slower pace of life, warmer climate and easy access to ports and other transport links, its easy to see why the area is so popular with British and International buyers. It's also just an hour or so from the coast. Those looking for a more cosmopolitan area should explore Laval with it's vibrant arts scene, trendy bars and cultural events. Based in Gorron, Amanda covers a wide area including departments 35, 50 and 61. For buyers, the good news is that Leggett's Pays de la Loire team have an impressive portfolio of properties to choose from, with something for every budget. Property is still in high demand throughout the region so there's never been a better time to sell, we have buyers waiting!



Contact Amanda today if you would like further information on how we can market your property: amanda.fellows@leggett.fr

FOR SALE

LUMON

Making your overseas payments quick, effortless and simple.

From the warmer climates, to the beautiful scenery and chateau's, easy access and affordable property, there is much to do and see, and experience in the Mayenne. But of course, moving abroad means making an overseas payment and you'll want it to be quick, effortless and simple!

When moving to France, there are many things to consider, from the process and cost involved in buying property to what visas you'll need, paying tax, what to do about healthcare, and even bringing your family pets with you. We've been helping customers successfully buy their dream property for more than 20 years. We do this by providing access to powerful technology and experts who understand the importance of the human touch. Plus with our competitive exchange rates, you can make significant savings compared to the high-street banks. Our experienced account managers will walk you through every step of the process.

Currency Exchange explained

Using a currency exchange company when buying in France can be advantageous for several reasons. Firstly, it can provide you with a more favorable exchange rate compared to exchanging currency at a bank or airport. This can save you money and provide you with more spending power.

Secondly, reputable currency exchange companies can offer peace of mind knowing that your money is being exchanged securely and efficiently.

Recently, internet currency accounts like Revolut and Wise have gained in popularity and their convenience makes a lot of sense for property owners in France but these type of accounts are usually peer-to-peer exchange companies and do not offer the same level of security that regulated currency exchange companies do. Therefore for big purchases, like buying a house or a car, UK buyers should use a FCA approved company. Visit their website to check : https://www.fca.org.uk/

Once you've had an offer accepted on a property, you can make your overseas payments in a few simple steps:

1. Open an account with us
2. Discuss your requirements with your account manager
3. Purchase your currency at a competitive exchange rate
4. Send us payment for your currency purchase
5. Provide the details of the bank account to send payment to
6. Transfer the currency to your recipient
7. And that's it, your overseas payment is complete

Whether you're buying a holiday home or planning to move over permanently, we'll be on hand for all your overseas payment needs for your property purchase, and all your ongoing foreign exchanges thereafter.

For more information please contact Karolyn, Lumon's bilingual in-country advisor quoting reference: Mayenne53

Looking to buy in France? Let LUMON help you!

Telephone : 0033 256 879 937
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French, English, German & Italian speaking!
Property Negotiator
daniela.weiss@safti.fr

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www.century21-dreano-53000.com

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Email :
info@cabinetlenail.com

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sgeslin@bskimmobilier.com

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www.lair-immobilier.com
Tel: 0243038080

Dining out in Mayenne

1 Rue de la Confrerie
53220 Saint-Berthevin-la-Tannière
lesaintberth53@gmail.com
Open Tuesday to Friday (Evenings only)
Saturday & Sunday (Lunch or Dinner)
by reservation only.

La Joie, 53220 La Pellerine

La Joie is a family-run restaurant located in the charming village of La Pellerine, in NW Mayenne. It offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere, and offers a range of dishes featuring locally sourced ingredients with the emphasis on seasonal produce.

Revamped in 2021/2022, the premises are owned by the commune and the restaurant business is owned by an Anglo/Irish couple: Leanne Wright & Kev Byrne.

Since re-opening in May 2022, the restaurant has become a huge success; with Leanne now running a waiting list for Sunday Lunch reservations!

La Joie
2 Rue de Bretagne,
53220 La Pellerine

Tel: 09 75 40 52 33

restaurantlajoie53@gmail.com

From traditional French and English dishes to his own unique creations, chef Kevin serves up delicious dishes sure to please even the pickiest of eaters.

The restaurant also hosts a permanent exhibition (and sale) of acrylic paintings, mainly still life, by the artist Joe Morgan , an English artist based in Fougerolles-du-Plessis.

The weekday lunchtime menu starts at 15€ (Tuesday to Friday) with a choice of 3 starters and 3 main courses, and 22€ for Sunday lunch. Friday evening, Saturday lunchtime and Saturday evening there is an "à la carte" menu.

Open Tuesday to Friday from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., Friday and Saturday evening from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For up to date information, check out their facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/100083297233323

1 Rue Corbeau Paris,
53120 Gorron

Le Papillon Restaurant
41 rue de Bretagne
53120 Gorron
Tel: 02 43 08 63 67
lepapillon53@orange.fr
Saturday 10:30am–3pm 6:30–10pm
Sunday 10:30am–3pm
Monday Closed
Tuesday 10:30am–2:30pm
Wednesday 10:30am–2:30pm 6:30–9pm
Thursday 6:30–10pm
Friday 10:30am–2:30pm 6:30–10 PM

Le Patis, Salon de Thé, 53190 Landivy

There's always time to visit Le Patis, a charming English tearoom located in the heart of Landivy, in NW Mayenne. This cozy and inviting salon du thé is the perfect spot to relax and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, a delicious scone or a slice of homemade cake.

At Le Patis, Jon & Jason take pride in offering a wide selection of teas and coffees, including classic blends and specialty flavors. The menu also features a range of sweet and savory treats, all freshly made on-site using the finest ingredients.

Whether you're in the mood for a leisurely afternoon tea with friends or a quick coffee and cupcake on the go, Le Patis is always worth a visit! Their friendly staff are always on hand to help you choose the perfect refreshment and make your experience at Le Patis a memorable one.

So why not stop by and discover this little piece of England in the heart of France?

6 Rue du Patis, 53190 Landivy Tel: 0645534024 LePatisLandivy@outlook.com

What's On

During the summer months, the region comes alive with a variety of events that offer something for everyone.

One of the most popular events in Mayenne is the Fête de la Musique, a nationwide music festival held every year on or near June 21st. The streets of Mayenne celebrate all genres, from classical to rock, as local musicians take to the streets to perform. Visitors can join in the festivities and dance the night away to the rhythm of the music. Another popular event is the Foire de la Saint-Denis, a traditional fair held in the town of Beaulieu-sur-Oudon in late August.

26 28
MAI 2023
GAZOU #1 FEST
DOMAINE DU DENAIS
ST-DENIS-D'ANJOU
MAYENNE (53)
Pass 1 jour - 16 €
Vendredi ou Samedi
Pass 2 jours - 25 €
Vendredi - Samedi OU Samedi - Dimanche
Pass 3 jours - 35 €
Vendredi - Samedi - Dimanche
Pass Dimanche - 10 €
Gratuit pour les moins de 12 ans

For those interested in history, the Château de Laval, a medieval castle in Laval, hosts a variety of events throughout the summer, including tours, exhibitions, and medieval re-enactments. Visitors can learn about the rich history of the region and experience life as it was in the past.

Other summer events in Mayenne include the Fête des Vieux Métiers (a celebration of traditional crafts and trades), the Festival Les Nuits de la Mayenne (a performing arts festival), and the Fête de la Bière (a beer festival). With so much to see and do, Mayenne is the perfect destination for a summer getaway. Whether you're interested in music, history, or simply enjoying the beauty of the French countryside, there's something for everyone in this charming department. For more information, check out our “What’s On” page on our website: www.mayenne53.com/whats-on

Music festival in Ambrières les Vallées
Sunday 28th May
From 6:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
Place de la Mairie
53300 AMBRIÈRES-LES-VALLÉES

www.musicnights.fr

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Regular Monthly Events Motown, Disco, 60s and 70s
Contact ann@enchantefrance.fr Tel/Txt FR 0786818095
www.facebook.com/groups/musicnights.fr

WHAT'S ON

Here's just a selection of some of the events taking place in the region this year.
Visit the What's On page at www.mayenne53.com/whats-on
for more information and lots more events!

Saturday 15th April
La Ferme d'Avril
Organic Farm Open Day
L'Hermitage
53600 Sainte-Gemmes-le-Robert
Tel: 0666140439 www.lafermedavril.fr

Saturday 15th-Sunday 16th April
LAVAL VITUAL
Virtual Reality Exhibition
Espace Mayenne
53000 Laval
www.laval-virtual.com

Wednesday 19th April
Mayenne Spring Fair
Place Georges Clemenceau
53100 Mayenne

Wednesday 26th April
Mouillos Festival for Children
Base de Loisirs de la Rincerie
53800 La Selle-Craonnaise
www.amac.mouillotons.fr

Sunday 30th April
Spring Fair
Petit Lac
53170 Villiers-Charlemagne

Sunday 7th May
Spring F^te
at Les Jardins des Renaudies
53120 Colombiers-du-Plessis
10am-6pm
www.jardindesrenaudies.fr

Saturday 13th-Saturday 20th May
Jazz Festival
53170 Meslay-du-Maine
www.festivaljazz-meslay.com

Saturday 13th-Sunday 14th May
RallyCross: Fol'Car
Circuit Maurice Forget
53100 Chatillon-sur-Colmont
www.rallycrossmayenne.e-monsite.com

Wednesday 10th May-Sunday 14th May
The 3 Elephants
Contemporary Music & Street Arts Festival
Place de Hercé
53000 Laval
www.les3elephants.com

Sunday 21st May
Middle-Ages Re-enactment
Sainte-Suzanne Chateau
rue Fouquet de la Varenne
53270 Sainte-Suzanne

Sunday 28th May
Fête de la Musique
Place de la Mairie
53300 Ambrières-les-Vallées

Wednesday 7th June
Joyaux: Ballet
Espace Mayenne
2 rue Josephine Baker
53000Laval
www.espace-mayenne.fr

Saturday 10th June
Choirs in the Spotlight
With the National Orchestra of Pays de la Loire
Laval Theatre
34 rue de la Paix
53000 Laval
www.letheatre.laval.fr

Friday 16th June
Cocktail Cruise
departing from Boston Square
53000 Laval
7.30pm
www.laval-tourisme.com

Saturday 24th June
Fête de la Musique
53120 Gorron
Live music in the streets
of Gorron from 5pm
www.gorron.fr

Friday 7th-Saturday 8th July
Au Foin de la Rue
Music Festival
www.aufoindelarue.com

Monday 10th July
Thursday 13th July
Tuesday 18th July
Thursday 20th July
Tuesday 25th July
Saulges Cave Tours
in English
650 route de la Roche-Brault Vallée des Grottes de Saulges
53270 Thorigné-en-Charnie

Thursday 13th-Friday 14th July
Street Arts Festival
53100 Lassay les Châteaux

Friday 14th-Saturday 15th July
Le Festid'Al
Contemporary music concerts, street arts & firework display
Espace Colmont, 53120 Gorron

Tuesday 15th August
Painters in the Street
&
The Festival of Lights
53270 Saint-Pierre-sur-Erve

Tuesday 15th August
Feast of Assumption
Celebrations at the Basilica
53220 Pontmain

Sunday 20th-Thursday 24th August
20th Edition of the Paris:Brest cycling event
Control point:
53700 Villaines-la-Juhel

Saturday 2nd-Sunday 3rd Sept
Village Fête
53300 SAINT-LOUP-DU-GAST
Music & Fireworks on Saturday Night

Saturday 9th-Monday 11th Sept
Town Fête
Music, activities, exhibitions, funfair, carboot sale, etc.
53300 Ambrières-les-Vallées

Saturday 16th-Sunday 17th Sept
Journées Patrimoine
National Open Days
for Historic Buildings

Sunday 24th September
28th Laval Marathon
Starts at 9am
Rue Spica, 53470 Martigné-sur-Mayenne
Finish line:
Square de Boston, 53000 Laval

Sunday 22nd October
Mouvi-Press (mobile apple press) in the car park from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Pumpkin Decorating Workshops at 2.30 p.m. and 4.15 p.m.
Jardin des Renaudies
53120 Colombiers du Plessis

Mayenne Business Directory

Whilst in the Mayenne, you will experience the wonderful French way of life. But sometimes it's just easier to deal with English-speaking businesses, so here's a selection!! For more English-speaking businesses, visit the online Business Directory: www.mayenne53.com/directory

ÉQUIPE 66 Route 66 FOOD TRUCK

American Style Food Truck in Fougerolles-du-Plessis
Every Friday 5pm - 9pm
Le Teilleul
Every Wednesday 5pm - 8.30pm
www.route66foodtruck.com

Le famous Knight

50 Rue de la Chevallerie,
53250 Couptrain
Tel: 02 43 32 09 81

GB La Grange à Bières

La Grande Chesnaie, 53500 Saint-Pierre-des-Landes

Great Beer & Great Music for a Great Night!
lagrangeabieres@gmail.com

Chris Hutt, ASH Normandie
Installation and repair of TV, Internet and home media systems. Including SKY, Freesat and TNT.
Phone: 0233916929

Selling Retro & Vintage 60s & 70s Ceramics, Bags, Posters, Household items, Furniture
Tel: 0786818095
Open 2pm-6pm 7 Days
Rue Du Mont St Michel, 61700 Domfront
www.retrobelia.fr

MAGIC GEEK

Phone/Tech repairs
magicgeek50@gmail.com
www.magicgeek.eu
Le, 7 Pl. du Champ de Foire, 50640 Le Teilleul

AT HOME Gite Management
www.athomegites.co.uk/

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2 Rue Sainte Anne 53140 Pré-en-Pail
Tel: 07 80 24 82 81
helpinghands@boitoult.eu

LA CUISINE DE BUBBA

English run pizzeria. Offering a friendly atmosphere and great food! Fresh pizza served daily. Eat in or take away!

1 Place De Mairie, 53120 Gorron,
Tel: 09 86 11 68 18

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Email: garyatkinson10@gmail.com

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Rue Nicolas Cochin, 53120 Gorron

BAR AU RDV

21 Rue de Normandie,
53190 Desertines
Phone: 02 43 00 60 21
Monday - Saturday 9.30am-8pm

Running a business in France....

Many people moving to France want to create their own businesses.This can be a baffling experience when you are newly arrived and getting to grips with a new language. The most popular and usually most suitable choice is the micro-entreprise structure.

Sarah MacGilchrist
France Expat Assistance
www.fepa.fr

The micro-entreprise (formerly known as "auto-entreprise") was initially created by Christine Lagarde, now head of the European Central Bank, during her tenure as Minister of Finances in France. Its intention was to allow people to try out business ideas before creating a full-blown company. In fact, because it is so simple to set up, it has turned into a very popular permanent solution for many who wish to have a small business activity. It is also easier to close it down if you decide your project is not a good idea. You can also upgrade it to a limited company relatively easily.

In France, all business activities are listed and categorised according to a NAF number. In turn, these activities fall under three different regulatory bodies, the Chamber of Commerce, the Chambre of Trade and the URSSAF. When you create your micro-enterprise, the formalities involved will differ from one regulatory body to the other.

Creating a business will generate your social security number, if it does not already exist, and your healthcare rights are locked in early on in the procedure.

The microenterprise structure is beneficial in that you don't need to have an accountant to sign off your accounts every year which keeps costs and time-consuming bureaucracy low in the early days.

Social contributions are paid on the year's turnover (you can opt to pay these monthly or each trimester. And, to offset the fact that there are no deductions allowed for expenses, there is a deduction applied on the amount of taxable income, ranging from 31 to 71 %, depending on your activity.

Your business can earn 36800 € for services and 91900 € for commerce before you are obliged to register for VAT (T.V.A.).

The micro-enterprise has a ceiling of 77 700 € for services and 188 700 € for commercial activities. Beyond this threshold, you will have to change to a limited company structure or cut down on your activity.

For more information about creating a business in Mayenne (or anywhere else in France) contact Sarah at www.fepa.fr

fepa
France Expat Assistance

Do you own a property in France? Or are you thinking about buying one? We can help you with everything from a visa, setting up a business, health care, personal tax, utilities, etc.
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france.expat.assistance@gmail.com
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www.fepa.fr

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www.enchantefrance.fr
5 Grappay Charpentier 53120 Brecé
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Gardening in the Mayenne

The Story of Karen's Garden: Hercé 53120

I first saw the cottage in 1989, it only came with 400sqm but I was offered, what was then a cow field of 4000sqm, and thought why not!

I moved over in 1990 and started working on the house, which was derelict. I created a small garden at the front with pathways and the rest of it was left to grass, which the farmer cut once a year and paid me for the hay. I lived there for a few years but then went back to the UK.

After 5 years, my friend Didier asked if he could start working in the garden. At first, he created some huge long beds and filled them with hundreds of marigolds he grew from seed.

This was followed by lots of shrubs, an orchard, a vegetable garden, and a forest area. Over the 33 years it has grown into a beautiful garden, with different areas around every corner.

Sadly, Didier's health started to deteriorate and the garden suffered but I moved back to the area in 2015, when I bought a bar in Couesmes-Vaucé, and then I moved back to live at the cottage in 2020.

I worked hard, along with paid helpers, to clear all the rubbish and start and get it back to what it was meant to be. It's hard work having such a large space but it brings me so much joy every day and I'm really grateful that Didier laid such a strong foundation for me to build upon.

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sgdjohn@gmail.com
www.groundworksdiggerhire.com

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• HOLIDAY HOME GARDEN TIDY UPS
• PATIO CLEANING
• ALL GARDEN WASTE REMOVED

LES JARDINS DE LA ROGERIE
Organic Farm, La Rogerie
53190 Landivy

CIDER BARN BROCANTE
Le Haut Boulay
53110 Le Housseau
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CIDERBARNBROCANTE

If you'd like your Mayenne Garden Story to feature in our next edition or on our website then please email: contact@mayenne53.com

Molly & Val's Plantes
heures d'ouverture
Lundi 27 Mars 12h à 18h
Mardi 28 Mars 09h30 à 18h
Mercredi 29 Mars 09h30 à 18h
Jeudi 30 Mars 09h30 à 18h
Vendredi 31 Mars 09h30 à 18h
Weekend hours TBA
06 82 29 35 01
La Rairie
Torchamp
61330
07 69 43 11 34

Life in the Mayenne:

Simon & Chris Wolf: Living in the Mayenne since 2020

Simon and Chris moved to Fougerolles du Plessis in NW Mayenne in August 2020, having spent over 30 years visiting France. From luxury hotels to campsites and cycling holidays, they've seen a lot of the country but when it came to moving here permanently, they had a specific set of criteria.... Originally from Leigh in NW England, Simon has a wealth of experience, from food retailer and caterer to potter and gallery owner and even teacher. But during the past 10 years, he has been perfecting the art of stained and fused glass.

From the comfort of their family home in Southport, Chris and Simon searched for the ideal property: something low maintenance but with a workshop for Simon. They found their perfect place in Fougerolles and haven't looked back! Simon is now an "auto-entrepreneur", making and teaching stained glass and glass art. He has even been commissioned to replace a stained glass window in a local chapel.

Both Simon and Chris have become involved in local groups: Simon is a member of the local model group and Chris is the secretary for a French/English discussion group that meets monthly. They also attend a French/English conversation group at a local café.

The Mayenne has proved to be the perfect place for them: great roads for cycling, an excellent health service, friendly neighbours and a village brimming full of community spirit. The only downsides have been the French love of bureaucracy and all the paperwork that involves! They're very happy in Fougerolles with no plans to move. Their advice for anyone else contemplating a new life in France? "Take your time to explore, there are so many lovely communities that are very welcoming and supportive of anyone willing to join in / get involved." www.wolfintheshed.com

Altar Natives
Civil Celebrant
& Wedding Planner
lara@altarnatives.org

If you'd like to appear in our "Life In the Mayenne" feature in our next online or printed magazine, Email: contact:@mayenne53.com

Scan the QR code to visit our website www.mayenne53.com

Useful contacts:

Préfecture de la Mayenne
46 Rue Mazagran, 53000 Laval,
Tel: +33 2 43 01 50 00

British Embassy (Paris)
Phone: +33 1 44 51 31 00

Laval Tourist Info:
84 avenue Robert Buron - 53000 LAVAL
info@laval-tourisme.com

Mayenne Department Tourist Info
Tel: +33 2 43 53 18 18
www.mayenne-tourisme.com/

Emergency Services:

15 SAMU (Emergency doctor)

17: Police (to report to the police something that does not require immediate action, contact the police station or the gendarmerie brigade closest to the scene or your residence.)

18 Fire Brigade (to report a hazard situation; or an accident involving property or persons and obtain rapid intervention (fire, gas leak, risk of collapse, burn, electrocution, road accident, etc.)

Hospitals:

Laval Hospital, 33 Rue du Haut Rocher, 53000 Laval Tel: 0243665000
Mayenne Hospital, 186 Rue de la Baudrairie, 53100 Mayenne Tel: 0243087300

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0685798830

We hope you've enjoyed reading the magazine!
If you have any ideas or suggestions for the next edition, why not head over to our Facebook Page and send us a message:

https://www.facebook.com/mayennemagazine

You can also leave a Google review here:
https://g.page/r/CUeAyEzXP9RQEBM/review

or scan the QR code

You can also follow us on Instagram:
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And if you love the Mayenne as much as we do, come and join the Mayenne Group for English Speakers on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/mayenne53english